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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 August 1948

SUBJECT Rocket Projectors on the Riesa Training Area

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

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1. The rocket projectors mounted on three-axled trucks which are already reported to be on the Riesa Training Area each have a crew of five men. Details are as follows: 50X1-HUM

No. 1 (Junior Lieut.)
Gun-layer (Sgt. or Sen. Sgt.)
Two gunners, who load.
Driver (Sgt.)

2. There are, in addition, two signalmen or telephonists to each two projectors. The officer-in-charge (presumably of two projectors) is located with the signalmen close behind the projectors and gives the firing orders. The exact component of the O.P. could not be established, but consists at least of the troop commander and several signalmen.
3. Gun drill is frequently practiced at Riesa on a competitive basis. On such occasions two projectors are driven at high speed to a prepared firing position. As soon as the truck stops, the crew jumps off and sets about a quick digging-in and camouflage of the projector. The various members of the crew then go to their allotted stations, the winner being the crew which is the first to report itself ready for action. The officer-in-charge then gives fire orders. After that, the crews again compete as to which can be the first to load and aim.
4. The fire order contains details of range and direction, as well as details of the type of ammunition and possibly also of the area to be swept (Flächenstreueung). The bombs are about 80 cm long and provided with long tail fins (Flügelschaft). They are similar to, but larger than, German 120 mm mortar bombs. The most frequent ranges noted are about 3,000 meters.
5. The elevating and traversing mechanisms are mounted on the left side of the projector and operated by the gun layer, who sits on a small steel seat. One gunner stands close behind the projector, while the other is stationed near the ammunition, which is dumped for security's sake in various trenches not far from the projector. A smaller proportion of the ammunition is carried on the projector's truck when it moves up, while the majority is driven to the firing position in ammunition trucks.
6. The driver of the projector sits during firing in a fox hole near his cabin, so that any time rough changes of firing direction are ordered he can move the whole equipment around.

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